March 20, 2020

**Covid-19 contingency planning for SPOT curricula**

Dear Students @SPOT,

Over the past week you have received a series of communications from the University related to interruptions in teaching due to the current Covid-19 pandemic. You should read them carefully as they include important information about the operations of the campus during the pandemic.

Now that we are able to begin to teach remotely to the students in the Professional Master’s programs (OT and PT), please see the SPOT-specific updates below.

**Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory Grading Option**

As one of the professional schools in the Faculty of Medicine, SPOT’s rules and regulations can differ from campus rules for specific options.

In order to ensure that the OT and PT Professional Master’s programs at SPOT continue to meet national accreditation standards, Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading is **not an option** for any of the courses that are part of the Qualifying Year and the Professional Master’s programs for **OT** and **PT**.

This same condition applies to the U1 and U2 classes in Rehabilitation Science (OT and PT), as students’ performance in the content of all courses in these programs must be available for consideration in students’ application to the Professional Master’s programs. Exceptionally, for Winter 2020, students in U1 and U2 may opt for the S/US option for their ‘elective’ course only.

**Continuity of the SPOT Curriculum**

- The current suspension of University activities and in-person teaching at McGill leaves us unable to predict some details of the delivery of the OT and PT programs. Course instruction in practical skills that require hands-on teaching will resume once the current suspension of in-person teaching for Universities in Quebec is lifted. The Quebec government has announced that this suspension will last at least until June 1. Because of their different needs for in-person teaching, the progression of curricula for the OT and PT Professional Master’s programs will proceed in different ways.

- **For U1 and U2 courses in the Winter 2020 term:**
  - The Winter semester will not be extended.
  - Remote instruction will begin on Monday, March 30th
  - Instructors will inform students about the tools that will be used for remote instruction, and provide updated course outlines, via MyCourses.
• Modifications to assessment methods (assignments, exams, etc.) will be included in the updated course outlines.
  o For any courses that opt to keep a final exam as part of their assessment methods, the exam period will remain unchanged.

• For U3/QY courses in the Winter 2020 term:
  o Completion of the practical components of the U3/QY courses: PT program: Under the current restrictions we will try to use the period beginning June 5th and extending as late as July 17th, to complete all lab content.
  o Completion of the practical components of the U3/QY courses: OT program: It is expected that the OT program will be able to deliver their content remotely during the remainder of the Winter term.

• For MI courses in the Winter 2020 term:
  o OT and PT students will complete coursework remotely for the Winter term. Revised course outlines are posted on MyCourses.

• For MI courses in the Summer 2020 term:
  o Clinical courses: PT program: The PT clinical course (PHTH 571) scheduled to begin on April 20th will be postponed to the Summer term, hopefully to be re-scheduled during the period beginning as early as June 29th and extending as late as September 4th.
  o Students will receive more details on from Professor Adriana Venturini, Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education – PT program.
  o Clinical courses: OT program: The first clinical course in the OT (OCC1-501) will be a role-emerging placement. This is scheduled for May-June and will be delivered remotely. The second clinical course in OT (OCC1-502) is tentatively scheduled to begin on June 5th, on a rolling basis.
  o Students will receive more details on from Professor Caroline Storr, Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education.

• For M2 courses in the Summer 2020 term:
  o Instruction of practical skills for certain courses in the PT program (M1 Winter term) will be scheduled into the Summer term for the M2 class. More details to follow.
  o The Master’s Research Projects (POTH-624) will be revised to be delivered remotely. More details to follow from Drs. Mazer and Preuss.

This is a changing situation. All of these plans depend on University permission to deliver in-person teaching over the Summer term. We will keep you apprised of changes in SPOT’s contingency plans for the progression of the curricula as they arise.

If you have questions or concerns, please communicate them to your respective class reps.

Stay well, Dr. Snider